

1. A method for permanent decorative enhancement of a polyethylene surface of a preformed article which comprises:

(a) applying a decorative enhancement composition to said surface wherein said decorative enhancement composition consists essentially of:

- (1) 20 to 90 weight percent liquid carrier; and
- (2) 10 to 80 weight percent mixture consisting essentially of:

(A) 9 to 50 weight percent colorant; and

(B) 50 to 91 weight percent of a mixture consisting essentially of:

(i) 30 to 70 weight percent of a binder solid selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon resins, petroleum, synthetic and emulsifiable waxes, rosins, rosin-esters, terpene based resins, and chlorinated polyolefin resins; and

(ii) 70 to 30 weight percent particulate thermoplastic powder selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, and ethylene-vinyl acetate co-polymers wherein said powder has a density from 0.88 to 0.97 and a particle size no greater than 140 microns diameter; and

(b) heating said deposited decorative enhancement composition and said interfacing surface to an elevated temperature and time sufficient to fuse said decorative enhancement composition to said surface to form a permanent decoratively enhanced surface of the preformed article.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said liquid carrier comprises 60 to 90 weight percent of said decorative enhancement composition for use in applying said decorative enhancement composition by spray methods.

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3. The method of claim 1 wherein said decorative enhancement composition is applied by rolling or brushing and wherein said decorative enhancement composition includes a thickening agent to allow increased retention of said decorative enhancement composition onto a rolling or brushing applicator.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said thickening agent is fumed silica.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said colorant is an organic pigment from the groups pthalocyanines, carbazole dioxanines, monoazo-based diazo-based, and quinacridones.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said colorant is an inorganic pigment from the groups lead chromates, molybdates, ultramarines, cobalt aluminates, and iron-oxides.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said colorant is an organic dye.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said colorant is a combination of pigment and dye.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said colorant is titanium dioxide white.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said colorant is carbon black.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said colorant is metallic solid.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein said colorant is pearlescent.

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13. The method of claim 1 wherein said colorant is phosphorescent.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein said colorant is fluorescent.

15. The method of claim 1 further including application of a clear overcoat composition to the exposed surface of said permanent decoratively enhanced surface.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said clear overcoat composition comprises:

(a) 70 to 95 weight percent particulate polyolefin powder; and

(b) 5 to 30 weight percent binder solid.

17. The method of claim 16 further including the fusing of said overcoat to said enhanced surface by the application of a temperature greater than 250 degrees Fahrenheit without overheating to cause warpage.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein said overcoat is a lacquer.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein said overcoat is an emulsion.

20. The method of claim 15 wherein said overcoat is a polymer.

21. A decorative enhancement composition for the enhancement of a polyethylene surface of a preformed article wherein said composition consists essentially of:

(a) 20 to 90 weight percent liquid carrier; and

(b) 10 to 80 weight percent mixture consisting essentially of:

(1) 9 to 50 weight percent colorant; and

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(2) 50 to 91 weight percent blend consisting essentially of:

- 10 (A) 30 to 70 weight percent of a binder solid selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon resins, petroleum, synthetic and emulsifiable waxes, rosins, rosin-esters, terpene based resins, and chlorinated
- 15 polyolefin resins; and
- (B) 70 to 30 weight percent particulate thermoplastic powder selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, and ethyl-vinyl acetate co-polymers wherein said
- 20 powder has a density from 0.88 to 0.97 and a particle size no greater than 140 microns diameter.

22. The composition of claim 21 wherein said liquid carrier comprises 60 to 90 weight percent of said composition for use in applying said composition by spray methods.

23. The composition of claim 21 wherein said liquid carrier includes a thickening agent to allow increased retention of said composition onto a rolling or brushing applicator.

24. The composition of claim 23 wherein said thickening agent is fumed silica.

25. The composition of claim 21 wherein said colorant is an organic pigment from the groups phthalocyanines, monoazo-based diazo-based, and quinacridones.

26. The composition of claim 21 wherein said colorant is an inorganic pigment from the groups lead chromates, molybdates, ultramarines, cobalt aluminates, and iron-oxides.

27. The composition of claim 21 wherein said colorant is

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an organic dye.

28. The composition of claim 21 wherein said colorant is a combination of pigment and dye.

29. The composition of claim 21 wherein said colorant is titanium dioxide white.

30. The composition of claim 21 wherein said colorant is carbon black.

31. The composition of claim 21 wherein said colorant is metallic solid.

32. The composition of claim 21 wherein said colorant is pearlescent.

33. The decorative enhancement composition of claim 21 wherein said colorant is phosphorescent.

34. The composition of claim 21 wherein said colorant is fluorescent.

35. A composition for a clear overcoat to protect a surface of a preformed article wherein the said overcoat consists essentially of: (a) up to 90 weight percent liquid carrier; and the balance is made up in the ratio of

- 5 (1) 70 to 95 weight percent particulate thermoplastic powder; and
 (2) 5 to 30 weight percent binder solid.

36. The composition of claim 35 wherein said overcoat is a lacquer.

37. The composition of claim 35 wherein said overcoat is an emulsion.

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38. The composition of claim 35 wherein said overcoat is a polymer.

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